



## Global Entrepreneurship Delegation Kicks Off Exciting Visit to Portugal

### "Deep Dives" with Start-Ups and Angel Investors

Day 1 started with a networking breakfast at the U.S. Embassy. The delegation met with Portuguese angel investors to share thoughts on how to evaluate and work with startups.

Then, the group spent most of their day at two of Lisbon's premier business incubators, where they met with hundreds of local entrepreneurs. They led group discussions on marketing

and access to capital. They also participated in one-on-one mentoring sessions.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with Portuguese participants enthusiastic about the "wise advice" and support they received from our team.

Manuel Curado de Sousa Mira, a Portuguese-American entrepreneur and member of the delega-

tion, said that he was so positively impressed by his interactions that he would definitely look to invest when some of the companies went public.

Stephan Morais, who manages one of Portugal's largest venture capital funds, said that this visit was an important and exciting step to link our respective business communities.

*Phil Meldrum discusses the finer points of developing a business plan with a mentee.*



*Caron de Mars and Amb. Sherman pose with a local entrepreneur under a cork umbrella manufactured by her startup.*



*Kathleen Healy and David Moura compare notes on their mentoring sessions.*



### Government Officials Roll Out the Red Carpet

Later in the day, Deputy Mayor of Lisbon Graca Fonseca explained how the municipality was supporting innovation through its sponsorship of incubators.

At night, we were thrilled to welcome Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister Paulo Portas to the Ambassador's residence for dinner with the delegation and a select group of some of Lisbon's

best entrepreneurs.

Portas, in charge of coordinating economic policy for the central government, was enthusiastic about the embassy's focus on economic initiatives such as the GEP visit. He also recognized the impact that our "Connect to Success" program would have on promoting women-owned businesses in Portugal.

*Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister Paulo Portas encourages more transatlantic cooperation to promote innovation at a dinner at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.*



#### Delegation Members

- > Paloma Bilson, Protea Group International
- > Victor Da Cruz, CSM Screw Machine Products
- > Michael Freitas Finete, General Mills
- > Kathleen Healy, Golden Seeds Boston
- > Kevin Langley, Ellis Construction
- > Natalia Luis, M. Luis Construction
- > Cidalia Luis-Akbar, M. Luis Construction
- > Manuel Curado de Sousa Mira, TekTone Sound & Signal
- > Phil Meldrum, Food-Match, Inc.
- > David Moura, ProGroup Contracting
- > Sheri Orlowitz, Artemis Holdings Group
- > Caron De Mars, Department of State